

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the Office Action mailed on February 8, 2008.

Claims 18 and 23-45 are currently pending in this application, with claims 18, 23, 34 and 45 being independent. *No new matter has been added.*

Reexamination in light of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of amendment

This amendment *prima facie* places the case in condition for allowance. Alternatively, it places this case in better condition for appeal.

Accordingly, entry of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Prematureness

Applicant, seeking review of the prematureness of the final rejection within the Final Office Action, respectfully requests reconsideration of the finality of the Final Office Action for the reasons set forth hereinbelow. See M.P.E.P. §706.07(c).

New non-final Office Action

At least for the following reasons, if the allowance of the claims is not forthcoming at the very least and a new ground of rejection made, then a new non-final Office Action is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Paragraph 3 of the Office Action indicates a rejection of claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112.

This rejection is traversed at least for the following reasons.

While not conceding the propriety of this rejection and in order to advance the prosecution of the above-identified application, claim 14 has been canceled.

Withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103

Paragraph 5 of the Office Action indicates a rejection of claims 12-14, 16, and 18-22 under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,009,236 to Mishima et al. (Mishima).

This rejection is traversed at least for the following reasons.

Claims 12-14, 16, and 19-20 - While not conceding the propriety of this rejection and in order to advance the prosecution of the above-identified application, claims 12-14, 16, and 19-20 have been canceled.

Claim 18 - Claim 18 has been placed into independent form. Since claim 18 has been examined within the Final Office Action, **no “further search and/or consideration” of claim 18 is believed to be required.**

Claim 18 is drawn to a reproducing device adapted to play back video data recorded on an information recording medium, the reproducing device comprising:

a controller adapted to set reproduction speeds of the video data, said reproduction speeds including a normal playback and a high-speed playback, said high-speed playback being at a higher speed than said normal playback;

a drive adapted to read out said video data from the information recording medium, said video data including main track data being read out during said normal playback and low resolution data being read out during said high-speed playback; and

a decoder adapted to generate an output image from said video data, said output image being viewable on a screen,

wherein, during said normal playback, said screen displays a frame of said main track data,

wherein, during said high-speed playback, said screen is divided into areas, said areas of said screen partially displaying different frames of said low resolution data, and

wherein, at a transition from said high-speed playback to said normal playback, an acceleration in accordance with time required to read out and decode said main track data is calculated so as to perform deceleration at a deceleration corresponding to said calculated acceleration.

Mishima - Figure 6 of Mishima shows an outline of the inter-frame prediction coding. Pictures are divided into three types, namely an intra-frame coded picture (hereinafter referred to as an **I picture**), a one direction prediction coded picture (hereinafter referred to as a **P picture**), and a both direction prediction coded picture (hereinafter referred to as a **B picture**) (Mishima at column 3, lines 10-17).

In the case where the coding structure shown in FIG. 6 is provided, the high speed playback of the picture can be performed when the data is played back in the unit of the I picture (Mishima at column 6, lines 58-63).

In this case, the format decoder 23 synthesizes one screen by playing back each one area from the I pictures of five GOP's which are continuous as shown in FIG. 26 (Mishima at column 34, lines 8-11).

Mishima, at column 34, lines 11-21 arguably teaches that in FIG. 26A, one screen portion of the playback picture is synthesized from the I pictures of nth to the n+4th GOP so that:

the I picture of the n+4th GOP is played back in area 1,

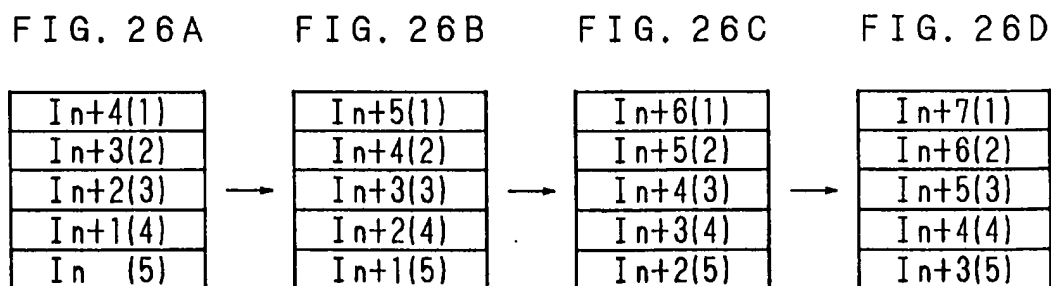
the I picture of the n+3th GOP is played back in area 2,

the I picture of the n+2th GOP is played back in area 3,

the I picture of the n+1th GOP is played back in area 4, and

the I picture of the nth GOP is played back in area 5.

Figure 26 of Mishima is provided hereinbelow.



However, Mishima fails to teach the presence of a transition from a special playback to a normal playback.

- *Thus, Mishima fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a reproduction device wherein, at a transition from said high-speed playback to said normal playback, an acceleration in accordance with time required to read out and decode said main track data is calculated so as to perform deceleration at a deceleration corresponding to said calculated acceleration.*

Withdrawal of this rejection and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Newly added claims

Claims 23-33 - Claims 24-33 are dependent upon claim 23. Claim 23 is drawn to a reproducing device adapted to play back video data recorded on an information recording medium, the reproducing device comprising:

a controller adapted to set a reproduction speed of the video data, said reproduction speed during a high-speed playback and being higher than said reproduction speed during a normal playback;

a drive adapted to read out said video data from the information recording medium, said video data including main track data being read out during said normal playback and low resolution data being read out during said high-speed playback; and

a decoder adapted to generate an output image from said video data, said output image being viewable on a screen,

wherein said screen is divisible into a number of areas, said number during said high-speed playback being variable in accordance with said reproduction speed.

Claims 34-44 - Claims 34-44 are dependent upon claim 33. Claim 34 is drawn a reproducing method for playing back video data recorded on an information recording medium, the method comprising the steps of:

setting a reproduction speed of the video data, said reproduction speed during a high-speed playback and being higher than said reproduction speed during a normal playback;

reading out said video data from the information recording medium, said video data including main track data being read out during said normal playback and low resolution data being read out during said high-speed playback; and

dividing a screen into a number of areas during said high-speed playback, said number being variable in accordance with said reproduction speed,

wherein an output image from said video data is viewable on said screen.

Claim 45 - Claim 45 is drawn to a recording medium on which a program readable by a computer is recorded, the program being for playing back video data recorded on an information recording medium, the program comprising the steps of:

setting a reproduction speed of the video data, said reproduction speed during a high-speed playback and being higher than said reproduction speed during a normal playback;

reading out said video data from the information recording medium, said video data including main track data being read out during said normal playback and low resolution data being read out during said high-speed playback; and

dividing a screen into a number of areas during said high-speed playback, said number being variable in accordance with said reproduction speed,

wherein an output image from said video data is viewable on said screen.

United States Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0002645, the publication document for the present application, provides at paragraph [0141]:

[0141] The high-speed playback will be more specifically described. If high-speed playback (for example, 8-x speed playback (8-x speed reproduction)) is directed in a state of normal playback where the main track data is displayed on a screen, the reproduction speed gradually changes from single speed to 8-x speed. When the reproduction speed reaches double speed, for example, the screen is horizontally divided in two. Two different frames of the low resolution data are partially displayed in the respective two areas obtained by the division. Similarly, for example, when the reproduction speed reaches triple speed, the screen is horizontally divided in three. Three different frames of the low resolution data partially are displayed in the respective three areas obtained by the division. When the reproduction speed ultimately reaches 8-x speed, the screen is horizontally divided into eight. Eight different frames of the low resolution data are partially displayed in the respective eight areas obtained by the division.

Mishima - Mishima fails to disclose, teach, or suggest features and steps of dividing a screen into a number of areas during high-speed playback, wherein the number are variable in accordance with a reproduction speed.

Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, all the claims now pending in the present application are allowable, and the present application is in condition for allowance.

Therefore, this response is believed to be a complete response to the Office Action.

Applicants reserve the right to set forth further arguments supporting the patentability of their claims, including the separate patentability of the dependent claims not explicitly addressed herein, in future papers.

There is no concession as to the veracity of Official Notice, if taken in any Office Action. An affidavit or document should be provided in support of any Official Notice taken. 37 CFR 1.104(d)(2), MPEP § 2144.03. See also, *Ex parte Natale*, 11 USPQ2d 1222, 1227-1228 (Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1989)(failure to provide any objective evidence to support the challenged use of Official Notice constitutes clear and reversible error).

Accordingly, favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application in light of the remarks is courteously solicited.

Extensions of time

Please treat any concurrent or future reply, requiring a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time.

Fees

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge all required fees, fees under 37 C.F.R. §1.17, or all required extension of time fees. If any fee is required or any overpayment made, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee or credit the overpayment to Deposit Account # 18-0013.

If the Examiner has any comments or suggestions that could place this application in even better form, the Examiner is requested to telephone Brian K. Dutton, Reg. No. 47,255, at 202-955-8753.

Dated: May 2, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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